**Part A: Discovering an Interesting Issue**

**Step 1: Consider possible topics.**

When you are interested in a subject, research is more enjoyable. Refer to Mrs. Craft’s lists and the library databases to create a list of 10–12 current “hot topics” that interest you.

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**2015–2016 LIBRARY DATABASE PASSWORDS**

SIRS Issue Researcher:

Go to http://sks.sirs.com

**Username: IWU7P6SM**

**Password: 98GPQWGQ8U**

Pioneer Databases (Opposing Viewpoints, Global Issues, Science Issues

Go to the library website’s (lphsmedia.blogspot.com) Student Tools tab.

Click on the first Pioneer link.

Click on “Opposing Viewpoints” or “Global Issues” or “Science Issues.”

Click on “Browse Issues” or “Browse Topics.”

**Username: pioneer**

**Password: discover**

**Step 2: “Listen in” on conversations.**

**Pick 3 topics** from Step 1 that you would like to consider. Use the library’s databases to discover what issues people are currently discussing and investigating for each topic. Answer the following questions for each topic. **In order to answer these questions you will have to do some light reading on the topic. Read through the summaries of various articles (you do not need to read the entire articles).**

**Topic#1:**

a. Why does this topic interest you?

b. What do you already know about this topic?

c. What are some current conversations about this topic? (2 minimum)

d. What is something you don’t understand about this topic?

e. Why would you want to learn more about this topic?

**Topic#2:**

a. Why does this topic interest you?

b. What do you already know about this topic?

c. What are some current conversations people have about this topic? (2 minimum)

d. What is something you don’t understand about this topic?

e. Why would you want to learn more about this topic?

**Topic#3:**

a. Why does this topic interest you?

b. What do you already know about this topic?

c. What are some current conversations about this topic? (2 minimum)

d. What is something you don’t understand about this topic?

e. Why would you want to learn more about this topic?

**Topic#4:**

a. Why does this topic interest you?

b. What do you already know about this topic?

c. What are some current conversations about this topic? (2 minimum)

d. What is something you don’t understand about this topic?

e. Why would you want to learn more about this topic?

**Step 3: Make a Choice**

After looking at a few topics and related issues, what is the topic that you want to research?

**My Research Topic Choice: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Step 4: Select a focus question.**

In order for this assignment to work well, you must go into your research with some type of question. You shouldn’t simply start researching “Poverty.” Instead, you should ask “Whose job is it to take care of the less fortunate?” or “Do free homeless housing programs work?” Picking a focus question (or in some cases two questions) allows you to focus your research rather than feel lost in the broad topic you’ve chosen.

*Just so you know, sometimes a focus question can change as you research. You might read something that changes the direction you wish to go. If this happens, go with it! That is part of the research process.*

What is your focus question? *Please write it below and check it off with me.*

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